



GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INVESTMENT
(ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND INVESTMENT DIVISION)

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OUR REF: 7096/00 Vol. L (50)

DATE: November 4, 2021

Ms. Viviana del Carmen Alva Hart
Representative
Inter-American Development Bank
“Hythe”, Welches
Maxwell Main Road
CHRIST CHURCH

Dear Madam,

Regional Public Goods Initiative – Request for Non-Objection

Reference is made to your letter CCB/CBA/610/2021 dated September 9, 2021 regarding the captioned subject.

The Cabinet of Barbados considered Note (21)1117/MFEI (I) (16) at its meeting held on October 28, 2021 and has no objection to Barbados' participation in the following projects under the Regional Public Goods Initiative: -

- (i) the Digital Transformation Hub to be executed by the University of the West Indies (UWI) Open Campus; and
- (ii) the Digital Communications Campaign to Attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the Caribbean to be executed by the Caribbean Export Development Agency.

Both initiatives recognize the gravity of digitalization to social and economic transformation, nationally and regionally; particularly as it relates to employment and income generation in a post pandemic environment. The successful implementation of these projects will also complement other regional technical cooperation in the sector, being facilitated by the Bank. The Government of Barbados therefore has no objection to Barbados' participation in these projects.

Your continued cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

DALE FOSTER (MISS)
for Permanent Secretary (ag)
Economic Affairs

DF/rc-m

49 Main & Urquhart Streets,
Georgetown,
Guyana.



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September 27, 2021

Ms. Lorena Salazar Solorzano
Chief of Operations
Inter-American Development Bank
47 High Street
Kingston
Georgetown
GUYANA

Dear Ms. Solorzano,

**Re: Selected Projects Under the 2021 Call for Proposals of the Regional Public Goods Initiative –
Non-objection to: 1) the Selected Projects and 2) the Amounts Allocated to the Selected Projects**

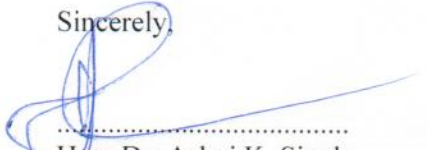
Reference is made to your letter dated August 31, 2021, on the above-captioned subject, in which we were informed that of the twelve (12) proposals selected for financing in 2021, under the Inter-American Development Bank's **Regional Public Goods Initiative**, Guyana is a participating country in the following two (2) projects:

Proposal ID	Proposal Title	Executing Agency	Participating Countries	Allocation (US\$)
5	The Digital Transformation Hub	University of the West Indies Open Campus	Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago	680.000
128	Digital Communications Campaign to Attract FDI into the Caribbean	Caribbean Export Development Agency	Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago	610,000

In order to satisfy the approval process before the month of November, as mandated by the Bank's internal guidelines, we are pleased to inform you that the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana has granted its non-objection to the above-listed projects, and to the amounts allocated thereto.

We now look forward to the approval and successful implementation of the projects.

Sincerely,


.....
Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh
Senior Minister
Office of the President
with Responsibility for Finance



**MINISTERIE
VAN
FINANCIËN
EN
PLANNING**

S.M. Jamaludinstraat # 26
Paramaribo-Suriname
T: 597 472610
E: secmin@finance.gov.sr

La OF 2211461

Paramaribo, November 8, 2021

Mr. Antonio Goncalves
Country Representative - Suriname
Inter-American Development Bank
Peter Bruneslaan 2-4

**Subject: Government of Suriname (GOS) Non-objection – Selected projects under the 2021
Call for Proposals of the Regional Public Goods Initiative**

Dear Mr. Goncalves,

This is in response to your correspondence regarding the request for non-objection to finance and participate in the selected regional projects under the 2021 Call for Proposals of the Regional Public Goods Initiative.

The GOS hereby provides its non-objection to the following projects in which the respective ministries in Suriname will participate:

Proposal ID	Proposal Title	Executing Agency	Participating Countries	Allocation (US\$)
3	Model for Strengthening the Institutional Capacities of the Security and Justice Sector to Respond to Human Trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean with a Gender Perspective and a Digital Approach	Inter-American Development Bank	Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay	\$ 700,000.00
5	The Digital Transformation Hub	University of the West Indies Open Campus	Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago	\$ 680,000.00
39	Fiscal Policy for Climate Change: Support to the Ministries of Finance of Latin America and the Caribbean	Inter-American Development Bank	Colombia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname	\$ 650,000.00

We look forward to the implementation of these projects.

Sincerely,

Armand K. Achaibersing
Minister of Finance and Planning

cc. Minister of Justice & Police
Minister of Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation



**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Level 14, Eric Williams Financial Building, Independence Square, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, WI
Tel: 612 9700 ext. 2016/1329 Fax: 623 8123

Ref PD: 11/4/74

November 8th, 2021

Carina Cockburn
Representative
Country Office of Trinidad and Tobago
Inter-American Development Bank
17 Alexandra Street, St. Clair
Port of Spain

Dear Ms Cockburn

**RE: Non-objection for Successful Projects under the 2021 Call for Proposals for the Regional
Public Good Initiative to be funded by the Inter-American Development Bank**

Reference is made to the subject as captioned above.

By letter dated September 15, 2021 the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) requested non-objection from the Ministry of Planning and Development for the Bank to proceed with funding four (4) projects that were successful in the IDB's 2021 Call for Proposals for the Regional Public Good Initiative. These regional projects that are selected for funding by the Bank and for which Trinidad and Tobago is a participating county are as follows:

1. *Regional Model to Strengthen the Capacities and Enhance Coordination among Citizen Security and Justice (CSJ) Institutions to Respond to Trafficking in Persons with a Gender Perspective and an Approach to Digital Technologies –*

This Regional Public Good seeks to improve countries' responses to trafficking in persons (TIP) by strengthening institutional capacities within the CSJ sector and coordinating with other sectors to combat this crime more effectively. The project is valued at US\$700,000.00. The executing agency in charge of implementing project activities is the IDB. A Steering Committee will be made up of personnel from the participating countries, represented by the respective governing bodies on the subject. These individuals will coordinate the participation of other institutions within the CSJ sector in their respective countries. For Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of National Security will be the primary coordinating Agency with the IDB this initiative.

2. *The Digital Transformation Hub –*

This project is expected to improve awareness and knowledge, capacity, adoption and management of digital technology by micro, small and medium sized enterprises that are within the digital economy in the Caribbean. The cost of this project is US\$680,000.00 and is to be implemented by the University of

the West Indies Open Campus. Each beneficiary country will appoint one representative (National Focal Point) from the institutions participating in the project to form the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The focal points will be responsible, at a national level, for facilitating project execution, and helping build consensus with stakeholders. The National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) is the local entity that will participate in the execution of the initiative and will contribute in-kind resources.

3. *Digital Communications Campaign to Attract Foreign Direct Investment into the Caribbean –*
This initiative is expected to enhance the competitiveness and value of Caribbean brands through a collaborative approach to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) into the Caribbean utilizing digital platforms. It proposes the development and implementation of an online marketing campaign with a focus on investor lead generation and conversion to projects. This initiative includes the development of regional investor perception surveys, which will inform a regional digital marketing campaign. Regional promotional tools and methods for online promotion will be developed and capacity building for the partners to this project will be undertaken to ensure sustainability. An allocation of US\$610,000.00 was made for this project, which will be executed by the Caribbean Export Development Agency. There will also be a Project Steering Committee, which will include a representative or focal point from each of the participating member countries. InvesTT Limited is the local entity that will participate in the execution of the initiative and will contribute in-kind resources.

4. *Regional Integration of the Green Hydrogen Value Chain –*
The objective of the proposal is to contribute to the decarbonization of energy services supporting the development of a regional Green Hydrogen (GH2) initiative through the promotion of the regional integration of its value chain. This project proposes to provide a Green hydrogen hub for the LAC region, develop a proposal for Harmonized Green Hydrogen Certification, and create a proposal for safety regulation for the transport of green hydrogen. This project will be Bank-executed, totalling US\$480,000.00. The execution structure will include the creation of a Steering Committee, which will have representation from all participating countries and from different sectors of the IDB. For Trinidad and Tobago, the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago will be the primary coordinating Agency with the IDB this initiative.

The Ministry of Planning and Development wishes to commend the Bank for coordinating the 2021 Call for Proposal for the Regional Public Good Initiative. Additionally, the Ministry is thankful for the opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the regional projects. These projects are expected to contribute to the development of various sectors of the economy. In this regard, approval is granted by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Bank to proceed with the execution and funding of the abovementioned projects.

Sincerely


Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Development
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE
FINANCIAL SECRETARY AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER
QUOTED:-

Telephone No. 92-28600-16
Website: <http://www.mof.gov.jm>
Email: info@mof.gov.jm

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE
30 NATIONAL HEROES CIRCLE
P.O. BOX 512
KINGSTON
JAMAICA

October 29, 2021

Mrs. Therese Turner-Jones
General Manager
Country Department, Caribbean Group
Inter-American Development Bank
6 Montrose Road
Kingston 6

Dear Mrs. Turner-Jones,

Re: The Government of Jamaica's Letter of Request for Non-Reimbursable Technical Cooperation Support from the Inter-American Development Bank to finance the Government's Priority Areas (Technical Cooperation Pipeline 2021/2022)

As you may recall, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) representatives had two (2) days of Portfolio Review in relation to all past and upcoming Technical Cooperation (TC) support on September 16 and October 1, 2021 respectively. The Portfolio Review's primary objectives were to: i) discuss the overall performance of the TCs, ii) review select projects being implemented, iii) agree on the critical next steps for the management of the portfolio, and iv) reduce any existing implementation challenges.

One of the strategic agreements emanating from the TC Portfolio Review was to create a more structured process for the design and development of the TC Pipeline of projects on a yearly basis. It is anticipated that this process will allow for: i) reduced transactional costs which will in turn promote greater efficiency in developing TC projects, ii) strategic alignment of available funding from the IDB with respect to priority areas for the GOJ, iii) early initiation with the Bank with respect to securing scarce grant resources and iv) improved programming of TC funding around both the GOJ and IDB budget processes.

In light of the foregoing, and the endorsement of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service (MOFPS) hereby submits for consideration, an indicative first list of concepts for Non-Reimbursable TC support (see attachment) which will serve as the official pilot of a structured process for the design and development of future TC projects.

We wish to outline two (2) conditions to this new structured processing arrangement:

- i. the Bank should ensure that the MOFPS, PIOJ and the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are involved/included in the design, preparation and coordination of the respective projects in order to facilitate full alignment with the GOJ's strategic priorities. Also as was mutually agreed regular monitoring meetings are to be convened to bridge any unforeseeable gaps; and
- ii. there may be instances in which the GOJ deems it fit to submit separate special requests to the Bank for Technical Assistance (TA) on an ad hoc basis, and as such we would appreciate the Bank's flexibility in this regard.

The MOFPS anticipates the IDB's favourable consideration of this indicative first list of concepts for Non-Reimbursable TC support which will deepen the collaboration between the GOJ and the Bank, and will also assist in enhancing the request and approval process for future TC support.

Yours sincerely,

Rose Lemonius-Stewart (Mrs.)
For Financial Secretary

cc: Ms. Barbara Scott – Deputy Director General | External Cooperation Management Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)

IDB List Of Pipeline Non-Reimbursable TC Projects (2021/2022)						
Count	TC Number	Name - Description	Unit	IDB Team Leader	Amount	Comments
1		Next City-Jamaica to cover the topics of Economic Development Planning, Territorial Planning, and Environment (Climate Change Adaptation)	Housing	Gilberto Chona	\$ 500,000	Request submitted to the PIOJ. Letter already requested to apply to the Korean Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) technical cooperation program.
2		Model for Engagement and Support for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities	Health	Charmaine Edmonson	\$ 765,000	Proposal received to pilot a model for the establishment of social and recreational support services centres
3		Enabling Persons with Disabilities through Information and Communications Technologies	Health	Charmaine Edmonson	\$ 300,000	Proposal received from Senator Floyd Morris, UWI Centre for Disability Studies
4		Support to PICA: Automate citizenship application management system, due to growth in demand for citizenship growing and increasing demand for digital services (Covid), linking with NIDS; Build out risk management and risk assessment facility for border management. A lot of processes are being upgraded, but further support is required.				
5		Support to OPM for review of TVET programmes in Jamaica, including those provided by HEART/NSTA.				Request submitted to the PIOJ.
6		Delivery Unit at the Citizen Security Secretariat				
7		Digital justice, supporting the MoJ (i) in-depth diagnostic; (ii) detailed action plan; (iii) select pilots	Institutions	Benjamin Roseth		
8		Digital Transformation for Teaching and Learning	Education	Cynthia Hobbs	\$ 300,000	
9		Implementation and technical support for the Energy Sector in Jamaica	Energy	Roberto Aiello	\$ 300,000	More details required
10		Support to the Auditor General	Institutions	Benjamin Roseth		
11		Support for Preparation of Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Program	Water	Evan Cayetano	\$ 500,000	Requires discussion with MOFPS
12	JA-T1184	Development of a Broadband and Information Communication and Technology Plan for Jamaica	Connectivity	Jaiwattie Anganu, Antonio Garcia	\$ 250,000	Likely to apply to the Korean Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) technical cooperation program
13		Strengthening the Blue economy and climate change resilience in Jamaica.	Climate Change	Gerard Alleng	\$ 500,000	More details required
14		Support to the Center of Government – Delivery Unit	Institutions	Benjamin Roseth		Discussed during TC Portfolio Review. Probably Regional
15	RG-T3974	Promoting Digital Technologies for the LAC Creative Industries	Innovation	Grazzi, Matteo	\$ 200,000	More details required
16	RG-T3992	Digital Transformation Hub	Innovation	Kayla Grant	\$ 680,000	Request submitted to the PIOJ. Call for proposal through the IDB's Regional Public Goods Initiative (RPG) to be executed by UWI Open Campus. The project intends to coordinate the regional ecosystem for transforming MSMEs through digital technology adoption across the region. It begins with offering data and data sharing protocols on digital capacity needs as a key public good that will be utilized to develop a machine learning algorithm that will support Business Support Organizations to better understanding and design policies and programs that meet the needs of Caribbean MSMEs operating in the digital economy.
17	RG-T4003	Technology Extension Services (TES) in the Caribbean Blue Economy and Essential Services Sectors	Innovation	Kayla Grant	\$ 600,000	More details required
18		Digital Communications Campaign to Attract FDI into the Caribbean		Kayla Grant	\$ 610,000	Request submitted to the PIOJ. Call for proposal through the IDB's Regional Public Goods Initiative (RPG) to be executed Caribbean Export Development Agency. This project aims to promote the Caribbean region as an investment destination, with diversified investment opportunities across its member states. The regional public good will include the development and implementation of an online marketing campaign with a focus on investor lead generation and conversion to projects.
19		University of Technology, Jamaica - Support for a new business and financial model				Proposal made for IDB Lab to support

20		Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW) - Wait Time Information Management System				More details required
21		Ministry of Education Youth and Information (MOEYI) - Examination of the impact of COVID-19 on the education system and outcomes including learning loss and rural-urban analysis				Relation to the CAPRI study
22		Ministry of Culture Gender Entertainment and Sports (MCGES) - Consultancy Service to review of National Sport Policy (2013) and implement National Results Framework. Study on the contribution of sport to Jamaica's GDP & Employment within the framework of the Sport Policy				This study was first conducted by Dr. Vanus James in 2007. The study needs to be updated given the changing landscape in sport, the evolving global policy priorities and focus on aligning sport policy to the SDGs. The impact of the pandemic on the sport sector in Jamaica would also be considered in the update of this study.
23		Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) MOPPS, Cabinet Office - 1) Consultancy Service to conduct an assessment of the Government of Jamaica's National Development Planning Framework. 2) Consultancy led research to assess monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and performance management capacity of MDAs (based on demand).				This will support the strengthening of results-based management in Government.
24		Ministry of Housing Urban Renewal Environment and Climate Change - (Climate Change Division) (MHURECC-CCD) - Support to the Climate Change Research and Technology Development Agenda				The sector has access to multiple sources of financing
25		Ministry of National Security (MNS) - Support to develop school programme for boys education through technology, sports and music (Kingston - Southern Crescent Schools)				To be financed through IDB Lab
26		Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) - Support to Diaspora Engagement				It is anticipated that two consultancy services will be conducted to: 1) develop a diaspora consular data Management System 2)
27		Support to JAMPRO for Nation Branding				Proporsal already drafted and was submitted to the OPM.

BEL/TRD/035 (326)

May 7, 2021

Strategic Eligibility Committee

Regional Public Goods Initiative
Vice-presidency for Sectors and Knowledge
Inter-American Development Bank

Dear Members of the Committee:

Re: Supporting Digital Transformation amongst Caribbean Firms

The Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) is committed to fully support and participate in the execution of the regional project “The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Digital Transformation Institute” as proposed for financing under the Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPG).

The below proposals within the RPG are a priority for our country because digital transformation within the private sector is crucial for the competitiveness and growth of the economy.

- A coordinated regional resource for curated, standardized, and quality digital capacity building offerings to Caribbean SMEs
- Data generation and data sharing protocols on digital capacity needs
- A methodology to increase digital adoptions amongst SMEs such as the digital innovation vouchers pilot.
- Data-driven action plan for a supportive innovation policy framework to ensure sustainability and integration of firms into innovation ecosystems

Although the use of digital technologies allows companies to improve their competitiveness and resilience, there exists a knowledge gap regarding what digital technologies are available for firms and how they can improve their digital maturity. The Digital Check-Up Self Diagnostic Tool, developed by the IDB, reveals to firms their strengths and weaknesses in terms of their digital maturity and practical steps needed to improve. Countries can utilize this tool to understand firms’ needs and how to connect them to resources for adopting digital technology. Specifically, the benefits include:

- Firm visualization of results and understanding of necessary steps to improve their digital maturity (i.e. knowledge of the application of digital technology to improve their efficiency, competitiveness, and market penetration)

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- Anonymously aggregated and comparable data that can be used as input for national, digital transformation strategies within the private sector, articulating the allocation of resources to meet the known needs of firms (i.e. better understanding of the digital skills gap; thus, the human capital needs of the private sector which can be addressed through skill accelerators known as digital talent bootcamps, etc.), development of MSME support programs, and better understanding the demand so as to develop/encourage the supply for such needs, ideally at a regional level.

This letter serves to notify the Inter-American Development Bank that BELTRAIDE hereby commits to contribute in-kind, technical expertise, for the equivalent of US\$ 20,000.00. The in-kind contribution for the captioned digital self-diagnostic tool will be the following:

1. The appointment of a liaison that will coordinate the local team towards designing, implementing, and maintaining the self-diagnostic tool.
2. The appointment of an IT expert/ small technical team to manage the transfer of the digital tool
3. The commitment of a team that will (i) provide input to the translation of the assessment tool (ii) guide the collection and sharing of data as per national regulations regarding data privacy (iii) analyze and communicate data results for input to national strategies, SME technical and financial support mechanisms, etc. (iv) develop a mapping of local support offerings that SMEs can tap into to support their digitalization efforts (v) promote the tool amongst the private sector and (vi) to manage and maintain the tool.

Furthermore, BELTRAIDE confirms that (i) the tool shall not seek to generate any financial profit, meaning that the access will be free of charge for enterprises and (ii) anonymized data will be shared with the IDB.

Considering the above, this organization pledges, once the objectives of the project have been accomplished, to continue promoting and supporting the development of the RPG by (i) contributing to and utilizing the virtual digital transformation institute to improve digital transformation capacity amongst MSMEs as well to (ii) continue collaborating and peer-based learning to improve the innovation and productivity of SMEs.

Sincerely,



Dr. Leroy Almendarez
Executive Director